

Message Text

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42

ACTION INR-07

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R 191110Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7801

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12153

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN, CZ

SUBJ: NEW INDIAN AMBASSADOR SURENDRA SINH ALIRAJPURA

REF: PRAGUE 2263

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY'S FILES, ALIRAJPURA WAS BORN MARCH 17, 1923 AND AFTER SECONDARY SCHOOLING IN INDIA ATTENDED CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY IN THE U.K. HE JOINED THE INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1949 AND SERVED SUCCESSIVELY AT THE INDIAN EMBASSIES IN BRUSSELS (1949-51) AND PRAGUE (1951-53) BEFORE RETURNING TO DELHI FOR A TOUR IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MEA) FROM 1953 TO 1955. FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO YEARS, ALIRAJPURA SERVED AS PRINCIPAL PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LONDON. HIS NEXT POSTS WERE AS ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER IN SALISBURY, RHODESIA (1957-59) AND AS FIRST SECRETARY AND CHARGE IN BEIRUT (1959-62). AFTER A YEAR AT INDIA'S NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE, HE SERVED AS A DEPUTY SECRETARY AND THEN DIRECTOR AT THE MEA (1963-66). AFTER TWO YEARS AS INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SINGAPORE (1966-68), ALIRAJPURA WAS APPOINTED AS AMBASSADOR TO CONGO (KINSHASA), NOW ZAIRE, IN FEBRUARY 1969. ALIRAJPURA IS MARRIED AND SPEAKS FRENCH AND ENGLISH.

2. WHILE OUR RECORDS FOLLOWING THIS PERIOD ARE INCOMPLETE, WE KNOW THAT HE HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED AN ASSIGNMENT TO NEW DELHI WHERE HE HAS WORKED AS A JOINT SECRETARY ON ADMINISTRATION IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. OUR ONLY DEALINGS WITH HIM HAVE BEEN SOCIAL.

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WE HAVE FOUND HIM PLEASANT AND RECALL HIS SAYING HOW MUCH

OH HAS ENJOYED HIS ASSOCIATIONS WITH AMERICANS IN HIS
ASSIGNMENTS ABROAD. WHILE WE HAVE NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY
IMPRESSED BY HIS CAPACITIES, WE RESERVE JUDGEMENT ON THIS
BECAUSE OF OUR LIMITED ASSOCIATION WITH HIM.
SAXBE

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